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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/211,155 12/14/98 EPSTEIN

M PHA-23-548

EXAMINER

WM31/0925

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TARRYTOWN NY 10591

BARRON JR, G	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2132
DATE MAILED:

4
09/25/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/211,155

Applicant(s)

EPSTEIN, MICHAEL

Examiner

Gilberto Barrón Jr.

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 2.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-20 are objected to because of the following informalities: There appears several extraneous parenthesis marks throughout the claims. Claim 7 is dependent on claim 8. Applicant is requested to verify this arrangement. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

3. Claims 1, 4-10 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by TOMKO et al (US 5,712,912).

The TOMKO patent discloses a method and apparatus for securely storing a personal identification number (PIN) or cryptographic key. Column 1, line 64 thru column 2, line 11 describes that a biometric measurement is processed to provide information that is used to encrypt a PIN or a key. The key may be a symmetric or asymmetric type, see col. 1, lines 66-67. The instant claims are anticipated as the security key reads on the PIN or key described in TOMKO.

The common elements of independent claims 1, 9 and 18 are met as follows: The biometric sensor, see Fig. 4, # 80, for providing a first biometric key of a current

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user. A storage element for storing an encryption of a security key reads on the encrypted PIN or key as noted above. A biometric decrypter, see Fig. 4, #270 and subsequent elements, to produce the decrypted PIN or key. All elements of dependent claims 4-8 are met within the portions of TOMKO noted above.

The security system of claims 9 and 10 are met as TOMKO, Fig. 4, # 40 discloses the recited access device for verifying the access status based on the decrypted security key.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 2, 3, 11-17 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over TOMKO (US 5,712,912) in view of CHAUM (US 4,529,870).

The TOMKO patent does not address the challenge/response elements of claims 2, 3, 11-15 and 19-20. The CHAUM patent teaches a security token that after generating a security key, the security key may be used in a challenge/response protocol to authenticate a current user, see col. 12, line 63 thru col. 13, line 8. The security key of CHAUM is taught as being stored in encrypted form; see col. 13, lines 52-63. The encryption is based on the owner ID, see col. 13, line 68 thru col. 14, lines 8.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the access system disclosed TOMKO to include a

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challenge/response authentication protocol as taught in CHAUM in order to avoid replay attacks, see col. 13, lines 1-8.

The CHAUM patent also teaches a tamper-resistant security token as per claims 16 and 17, see col. 2, line 66. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to fabricate the security token in TOMKO to produce a tamper-resistant token as taught in CHAUM to in order to prevent mechanical manipulation to breach the security token.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gilberto Barrón Jr. whose telephone number is (703) 305-1830. The examiner can normally be reached on Mondays thru Thursdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

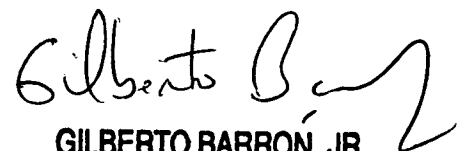
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisors: Mr. Albert Decady, can be reached on (703) 305-9595, or Ms. Gail Hayes, can be reached on (703) 305-9711.

The fax phone number for OFFICIAL responses for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7239.

The fax phone number for AFTER FINAL responses for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7238.

The fax phone number for DRAFT proposals for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 746-7240

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.


GILBERTO BARRÓN, JR.
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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